

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claim 14 and 15 have been amended. Claim 28 has been added. Claims 14, 15, and 28 are pending and under consideration. Support for the amendment to claim 14 may be found, inter alia in the specification as filed originally at page 5, lines 15-28 and Fig. 1, and at page 8, lines 32 and 33, continuing at page 9, lines 1-16. Support for the amendment to claim 15 may be found, inter alia in the specification as filed originally at page 10, lines 23-27, and shown in Figs. 5 and 6.

Support for new claim 28 may be found, inter alia in the specification as filed originally at page 5, lines 15-28 and Fig. 1, and at page 8, lines 32 and 33, continuing at page 9, lines 1-16, as well as in claim 14 as filed originally. Since support for claim 28 may be found in claim 14 as filed originally, claim 28 is believed to read on the elected group, i.e. Group II, claims 14 and 15. Reconsideration is requested based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Objections to the Specification:

The Specification has been objected to for various informalities. Appropriate corrections were made in substantial accord with the Examiner's suggestions. The Examiner's suggestions are appreciated. Withdrawal of the objection is earnestly solicited.

Objections to the Claims:

Claims 14 and 15 were objected to for various informalities. Claims 14 and 15 were amended in substantial accord with the Examiner's suggestions. The Examiner's suggestions are appreciated. Withdrawal of the objection is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,269,445 to Rubin (hereinafter "Rubin"). The rejection is traversed to the extent it would apply to the claims as amended.

Claim 14 recites:

Modifying a function of said placement and wiring processing program stored in said program storage unit during the execution of said placement and wiring processing.

Rubin neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests, "modifying a function of said placement and wiring processing program stored in said program storage unit during the execution of said

placement and wiring processing," as recited in claim 14. In Rubin, rather, "programming means 610, which is a software, is stored in the main memory 606," as described at column 6, lines 11 and 12. Rubin never goes back to mass storage 604 to modify any function of programming means 610 at all, let alone during execution. Claim 14 is submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 is earnestly solicited.

Claim 15:

Claim 15 recites:

Checking the placement and wiring processing operated through said placement and wiring processing program based on said execution history information so stored.

Rubin neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests, "checking the placement and wiring processing operated through said placement and wiring processing program based on said execution history information so stored," as recited in claim 15. Rubin, in fact, mentions no execution history at all, let alone, "checking the placement and wiring processing operated through said placement and wiring processing program based on said execution history information so stored," as recited in claim 15. Claim 15 is submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 is earnestly solicited.

New Claim 28:

Claim 28 recites:

Modifying a function of an original of said placement and wiring processing program stored in a program storage unit during the execution of said placement and wiring processing.

None of the cited references teach, disclose, or suggests, "modifying a function of an original of said placement and wiring processing program stored in a program storage unit during the execution of said placement and wiring processing," as recited in claim 28. Claim 28 is thus believed to be allowable.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, in view of the reasons given above, it is submitted that all of claims 14, 15, and 28 are allowable over the cited references. Allowance of all claims 14, 15, and 28 and of this entire application is therefore respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the

Serial No. 10/625,631

application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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